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THE
MONTHLYGULL
BULLETIN

Volume 47

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August 1965

Number 8

FIELD TRIPS FOR AUGUST

Saturday, August 14, to Aden's Resort, at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Stanislaus Rivers, to see the cuckoo which is a late arrival. From Tracy, take U.S. Highway 50 two miles eastward, turn right onto State Highway 33 and go southward six miles to the Texaco station at Airport Way, turn eastward and go $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to San Joaquin River. Continue on for 1.3 miles to Division Road which has first Aden's directional sign. Follow these signs 2.2 miles to resort.

Camping, cabins and meals are available. For cabin reservations write Aden's Resort, Route 2, Box 223, Manteca, Calif. or phone 209 Talbot 3-4822 (Manteca). Driving time from Bay Area points — 2 hours. The cuckoos are most active between 6 and 7:15 a.m. Meet in the parking area by the snack bar at 6 a.m. Breakfast will be served in the restaurant at 8 a.m. Because these are timid birds and elusive, do not try to stalk them or they escape. Please stay with the group quietly and calmly and wait for the birds to appear. They were observed by this leader on five weekends one summer.

Sunday, August 15, to Aden's Resort for a repeat performance of Saturday's trip. Same hours. Leader, Oliver I. Allen, 948-5639.

Saturday, August 21, Bodega Bay (Sonoma County). Shorebirds should be abundant on their return from their breeding grounds. High tide is 8:15 a.m. We meet at the entrance to Doran Park, Bodega Bay at 8:15 sharp. Leader, Carlyle Sather, 756-0581 (South San Francisco).

Saturday, August 28, boat trip off the coast of Monterey. Deadline for reservations is **August 10.** See *July Gull* for details.

Plan now for the second Monterey boat trip scheduled for **Saturday, October 2,** with Los Angeles Audubon Society. Fare: \$4.50 per person. Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail to Mrs. Valeria G. DaCosta, 2090 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94109. **NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED UNLESS A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ENCLOSED WITH YOUR CHECK.** Deadline for reservations is September 15. Leaders: Arnold Small and Russell E. Wilson, Los Angeles; Guy McCaskie, San Diego; and Rich Stallcup, Oakland. **NOTE:** If you are making reservations for both the August and the October boat trips, be sure to send separate checks and return envelopes. — MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman.*

Note: There will be no Golden Gate Audubon Society meeting in August.
The next regular meeting will be in September.



COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

"A National Tragedy," the June 15th issue of *Audubon Leader's Conservation Guide* terms the current water starvation of Everglades National Park. This has come about through construction by local flood control districts and the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers of diversion canals and catch basins which have stopped the natural flow of waters from Lake Okeechobee and the central Florida marshes southward into the "Glades." Now the Everglades are slowly dying, as farm and housing developments benefit from this water. Audubon members *everywhere* should write to their own U.S. Senators and Congressmen, to Secretary of the Army Stephen Ailes and to President Johnson. It took decades of individual efforts and legislative struggles to finally create this Everglades National Park — really but a small portion of the Everglades region — in 1947 — and our National Audubon Society led this campaign. Now it is up to us to save this unique wildlife and botanical national treasure from the "developers."

President Johnson's Memorial Message on Natural Beauty issued last February should be carefully read by all of us. Then came the White House Conference on Natural Beauty held in May. William P. Mott, Jr., Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, served as a panelist at this conference and described it briefly at our Annual Meeting in June. Although the conference was promising and stimulating, he told us he was greatly disturbed over actions of Federal, State and local governmental agencies which flaunt such high purposes and resolutions. Destructive strip mining in Kentucky is one flagrant example of mass landscape destruction partly sponsored by the Federal Government. And current legislation introduced into Congress would deny the right of a proud little community like Woodside to challenge the rights of the mighty A.E.C. to spread ugly power lines overhead. If this sort of legislation should reach the President's desk we'll be keenly interested in its treatment.

The Sierra Club, which printed President Johnson's two messages on Natural Beauty in its March and May "Bulletins," also points to some of those projects conceived and blessed by his administration which would commit mass assaults on natural scenic values, wildlife and fisheries. The Club feels that the White House gathering might better have been called the "Conference on Man-Made Blight," and that the "Classic Conservation" — or the preservation of natural areas, was really de-emphasized. In other words, let us all beware that under a beautifully tinted smoke-screen of "clean-up and beautify" slogans and drives we do not permit misguided master development plans and projects to wipe out irreplaceable natural areas and resources!

Several beautiful 16 mm. color-sound films with power-punch messages are available to community groups who wish to present ways and means of

preserving natural beauty and other resources. "Islands of Green," made by the U.S. Forest Service and the Audubon Society on the subject of nature centers, runs 24 minutes and is available for a \$5.00 booking fee from the National Audubon office in New York. "The Green City," a 20-minute film showing how many metropolitan areas have preserved beauty with development, may be obtained from the National Park Service Regional Office, San Francisco. And, of course, there is still "Nature Next Door," filmed by Dr. Robert Stebbins mainly in Tilden Park, which remains right at the top in local conservation-teaching films, in our humble opinion, and may be obtained from the Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco, 4.

Now we are happy to report that our embattled State Legislature, before adjourning, appropriated \$8 million for about 2,000 acres of park at Sugar Pine Point on Lake Tahoe, and also approved funds to complete the purchase of Gold Bluff Beach and Fern Canyon at Prairie Creek State Park.

But down at the south end of Tahoe we face the possibility of having a State Highway cut right through the precious Pope Beach Marsh, where 191 acres provide nesting grounds for Canada Geese, Mallards, Mergansers, and other wildlife. Science Teacher and U.S.F.S. summer Naturalist Brian Hayes (Box 253, Al Tahoe, Calif.) is surveying this habitat and will, if contacted, describe this situation. — PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

A FIGHT TO SAVE SWALLOWS

The *Richmond Independent* gave front-page publicity to a recent fight (June 29) to prevent the scheduled burning of two ship hulks containing swallows' nests at Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor. Mary E. Lumsden, state humane officer of Richmond, Hugh Wilkins-White of El Cerrito, and Phyllis Zweigart of Golden Gate Audubon Society opposed the burning, which had been ordered by the San Francisco District of the Corps of Engineers. The swallows' defenders had suggested that fencing off the hulks would end the navigational hazard and make burning unnecessary. Spokesmen for the Engineers and the Yacht Harbor said it would be too expensive. In spite of the protests, the ship hulks and nests were burned on June 30.

CLARK STATION — SIERRA VALLEY FIELD TRIP

Thirty-six enthusiastic members were on hand for the June 26-27 field trip to Clark Station and Sierra Valley in the northern Sierra Nevada. June 26 was spent in the mountain area and afforded good observations of calliope hummingbird, green-tailed towhee, empidonax flycatcher, white-headed woodpecker, as well as other more common species. Those who camped at Chapman Creek Campground saw the pileated woodpecker.

Passing over Yuba Summit on the 27th a black-backed three-toed woodpecker was seen. Also at the Summit there were nesting mountain bluebirds, tree swallows, house wrens, and others. The Sierra Valley produced interesting birds of both sage and marsh habitat. Of the former there were sage thrashers, Brewer's sparrow, vesper sparrow, and golden eagle. The marsh area brought black tern, Wilson's phalarope, red-head and other ducks, grebes (eared nesting), etc. There was so much water in

the grassy lake on the Scolari Ranch that few trippers reached the lake itself. The concentration of birds in this area was not as great as in former years due, perhaps, to the great quantity of water in the Valley which afforded many other equally suitable nesting places. A total of 94 species of birds were observed in the two-day period. — BETH C. SNYDER, *Leader and Historian*.

FOR THE CHILDREN

When you are on vacation in the country you may come across many creatures which you never see at home during the winter months. Among these are the reptiles and amphibians. Both of these are cold-blooded animals, which means that their blood is as cold or as warm as the place where they happen to be at the moment. So neither of these animals can stand freezing weather nor very great heat. To protect themselves from the cold many of them hibernate. This means that they sleep away the winter months. (Some aestivate too and this is sleeping during the hot summer days). In either of these conditions the animal's heart slows down and it eats no food. In fact its sleep is so deep that every organ within slows down and runs at a much reduced rate. So we find turtles digging themselves into a hole, some snakes hiding beneath rocks and others gathering in great numbers in dens to keep one another warm.

Today I thought I'd tell you about some of the amphibians however. An amphibian is an animal that goes through a bodily change, called metamorphosis, during its lifetime. The eggs of most amphibians are laid in a jelly-coated mass in water. However, there are some frogs and salamanders whose eggs are laid in moist places on land.

When an amphibian hatches from the egg it does not look like its parents. It is a larva. In the case of frogs and toads this is a polliwog, or tadpole. While in this stage the amphibian breathes like a fish through gills and has a tail with which to propel itself in water. Later it loses the tail, and grows legs and arms and also lungs so that it is now able to breathe dry air. At this time it comes to live on dry land.

There are two main types of amphibians, the tailed or salamanders and the tailless, or frogs and toads. Salamanders always live in moist spots, many of them spending their entire lives in water while others live on land and keep moist underneath rocks, bark, or piles of broken earth.

Toads and frogs differ in a number of ways. A frog has a pointed head and a smooth skin, while a toad has a rounded snout and warts on its back. You will not, however, catch warts by holding a toad for the warts people have are of an altogether different nature than those that adorn the toad's back. A toad also has swellings on the side of the head behind the eye. In this area too both frogs and toads have a flat surface over which is stretched a thin skin. This is the tympanum and serves as an eardrum, or the outer portion of the ear. On toads the tympanum is much smaller than it is on frogs.

If you collect frogs, toads or salamanders in damp places be sure to return them to where you found them for they are apt to die if you take them

home with you. But if they are allowed to remain where they belong they are able to perform a real service in their own habitat. Here they eat many insects and help to keep a good balance of nature.

If you want to hold a frog or toad for observation, be sure to get a grip on the back legs for these are strong and unless held tightly they will remove the animal very quickly and suddenly from your hands.

While you are looking at these animals notice the shape of the feet, how many toes they have on the front and back legs, how they breathe, the shape of their eyes and the pupil or black spot in them. Look for as many things about the amphibians as possible for by so doing you will be on the way to becoming a fine naturalist. Have a happy vacation! — MRS. JANET NICKELSBURG, *Education Chairman.*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Alameda, Mrs. D. Christensen; from Berkeley, Mrs. Melvin Calvin, Miss Elaine Brown Campbell, Miss Katherine Ferguson, Miss Helen J. McGinnis, Mrs. Barbara Pace, Mrs. Walter Warren, Miss Carol Jean Webb; from Oakland, Miss Florence L. Bailey, Mr. Roger O. Wilbur; from San Francisco, Mrs. D. J. Russell, Mr. William M. Hammerman. — MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman.*

SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

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Audubon Canyon Ranch also received gifts *honoring* the following:

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Patricia Sullivan	Rae Abrahamson
Dr. Albert Boles	Dad's Club - Troop 326, Jefferson School, Oakland, Calif.

— DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.*



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THE GULL

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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
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